

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 EUR-12 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AGR-05 COME-00

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 /086 W

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R 241040Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6192

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1485

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MUJIB ON POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

1. IN COURSE CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT MUJIB TODAY, I ASKED ABOUT THRUST OF MUCH-HERALDED INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26. SPECIFICALLY WHETHER HE INTENDED TO ANNOUNCE NEW BAKSAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMPOSITION OF WHICH WOULD INDICATE HOW BROADLY BASED NEW PARTY MIGHT BE AND RELATIVE SHADES OF INFLUENCE.

2. MUJIB SAID SPEECH WOULD OUTLINE PROGRESS MADE IN PULLING TOGETHER HIS ADMINISTRATION, A REVIEW OF ECONOMIC POLICY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS. HE SAID CENTRAL COMMITTEE WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ANNOUNCED EARLIER THAN FIRST WEEK IN APRIL.

3. HE SAID DIFFICULTY HE WAS HAVING WITH CENTRAL COMMITTEE AROSE FROM HARD EFFORTS OF SOME (PRESUMABLY CPB AND NAP/M ELEMENTS) TO PERSUADE HIM TO BE CRITICAL OF "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM." HE SAID HE IS OPPOSED TO ALL KINDS OF IMPERIALISM, AND WILL NOT SINGLE OUT ANY  
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ONE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY ONE THAT HAS BEEN AS FRIENDLY

AND AS GENEROUS AS USG. MUJIB SAID HE IS NOT A MARXIST, IN HIS VIEW SOCIALISM IS A LONG-TERM GOAL FOR A COUNTRY LACKING IN ITS OWN RESOURCES, AND A POOR COUNTRY LIKE BANGLADESH REQUIRES THE WIDEST NETWORK OF FRIENDSHIP AND ASSISTANCE. THIS ISSUE HAD GENERATED CONSIDERABLE ARGUMENT IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS, BUT HE WOULD NOT BE PRESSURED. HE ALSO SAID HE WAS PICKING OFF MARXIST NAXALITES ONE BY ONE AND HE WOULD SOON BE RID OF THEM IN THE RURAL AREAS.

4. HE SAID HIS PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS WERE ECONOMIC, NOT POLITICAL, ESPECIALLY JUTE. HE WAS WAITING FOR NEWS THAT THE US JUTE MARKET WAS OPENING BECAUSE AT THE MOMENT ABOUT 30 MILLS WERE CLOSED WITH SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.

5. HE AGAIN EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR US FOOD ASSISTANCE AND INDICATED BANGLADESH COULD TAKE WHATEVER ADDITIONAL FOODGRAINS MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE.

6. COMMENT: MUJIB'S REMARKS ON PROBLEMS AND TIMING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE ECHO RUMORS WE HAVE HEARD ON THE SUBJECT. WHILE HIS COMMENTS REGARDING SOCIALISM MAY BE WHAT ONE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO SAY TO US, THEY MAY GENUINELY REFLECT HIS DESIRE NOT TO BE PUSHED TOO FAR TO THE LEFT FOR FEAR OF JEOPARDIZING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE WIDEST POSSIBLE SOURCES. HIS SPEECH MARCH 26 MAY CONVEY SOME NEW INDICATORS OF DIRECTION HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE, BUT WE ANTICIPATE A BROAD-BRUSH, SIMPLISTIC TREATMENT BEFORE SUCH A MASSIVE OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975DACCA01485  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750102-0207  
**From:** DACCA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750323/aaaaauig.tel  
**Line Count:** 93  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT MUJIB ON POLITICS AND ECONOMICS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BG, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006